

SCIENTIST PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Office of the Surgeon General
United States Public Health Service

Minutes of 25 February 1999 Meeting Number 71

I. LOCATION/DATE/TIME:

Parklawn Building, Rockville MD: OSG conference room 18-57
25 February 1999; 1230-1530 hours

II. ATTENDANCE:

A. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CDR S. Lori Brown	FDA	(Past Chairperson)
CDR Francois Lalonde	NIH	(Chairperson)
CDR Rebecca Sheets	FDA	(Vice Chairperson)
LCDR Richard Troiano	NIH	(Executive Secretary)
LT Darin Weber	FDA	(Recording Secretary)
LCDR Allen Albright	FDA	(Liaison to DC-COA)
Dr. Stephen Goldman	NIH	
CDR Angela Gonzalez-Willis	HRSA	
CAPT Helena Mishoe	NIH	
CAPT Carolyn Strete	NIH	

B. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING:

CAPT Derek Dunn	OSG	(CPO)
CAPT Susanne Caviness	SAMHSA	
CDR Mark Paris	SAMHSA/DOD	
LCDR Meta Timmons	DCP	(Liaison to DCP)

C. GUESTS ATTENDING:

CAPT Paul Ellner	Inactive Reserve
LT Nelson Adekoya	CDC
LT M. Thomas Hendricks	FDA/CVM
LT Boris Aponte	SAMHSA

D. MEMBERS EXCUSED OR ABSENT:

LCDR Laila Ali	FDA
CAPT Alejo Borrero-Hernandez	BOP
CDR Patrick McNeilly	OS
CDR Carl A. Ohata	AHCPR
CDR Gilbert Sanders	IHS

III. STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS AND REPORTS:

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1235 hours by CDR Francois Lalonde, Chairperson.

B. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR:

CDR Lalonde greeted the group and began the meeting by asking for the report from the DCP staffing officer.

C. REPORT FROM THE DCP STAFFING OFFICER:

LCDR Timmons provided the report from DCP. The promotion boards began meeting February 1, 1999 and expect to complete their work by the end of the month. Approximately one-third of the Corps is up for promotion. Of those, 93 scientists are up for promotion. The results from the promotion boards may be available by the June COA meeting.

Additionally, the commissioned corps readiness force (CCRF) has a web page (<http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf/>) and is capable of accepting applications on line. All interested officers are encouraged to apply.

Orientation for Jr. COSTEPs will take place on May 28, 1999 and June 25, 1999.

DCP intends to institute optical scanning of CO records. A contractor has been selected and is in the process of working with DCP to determine what information in an Officer's OPF will be included. It may not be possible to scan the entire file due to the large size of some of the files.

Retirement seminars will be held on April 27-28th and June 10-11th. If interested, please contact Mr. Barry at 301-594-3472. Pre-registration is required.

The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance which is part of United State Agency International Development (USAID) is seeking PHS officers interested in 2-4 week temporary duty (TDY) assignments. They are interested in officers possessing humanitarian assistance experience, language ability, appropriate security clearance, and overseas living experience in 3rd world countries. If interested, submit CV with relevant information to LCDR Timmons (301-594-3395). This is an ongoing announcement, with no definite ending date.

The Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) has been looking for junior officers at the 0-3 to 0-5 level for several staffing officer positions. A decision will be made

in next few weeks and the officers' OPDIVS asked to give officers 1 year leave to work in the OSG.

DCP is seeking officer input on how to improve the flow of information between the agency personnel officers and DCP in order to remind them to think of the Corps when new hires are brought on board. If you have any ideas, contact LCDR Timmons.

CAPT Davidson, the director of DCP, will be promoted to O-7 in June.

D. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICER:

CAPT Dunn greeted the PAC and distributed the current listing of Chief Professional Officers for the various categories (Appended to the end of these minutes). Of note, the listing contains CAPT Dunn's new address for contacting him.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey was discussed at CPO meeting. Data for the survey will now be collected on a continual basis. CAPT Dunn distributed an outline of the Surgeon General's three main priorities:

1. Balanced Approach to Community Health

- ❖ **Healthy Start**
- ❖ **Healthy Lifestyle**
- ❖ **Mental Health**

2. Global approach to health promotion and disease prevention

- ❖ **Infectious diseases**
- ❖ **Bioterrorism**

3. Eliminating racial disparities

ADM Satcher outlined these priorities in a speech during his recent trip to South Africa. Subsequent to the speech, South Africa decided to adopt the SG's priorities as their own public health initiatives. This may provide opportunities to collaborate and assist S. Africa in these areas.

RADM Blackwell led a discussion on the future of Corps. All categories have provided information about how they can contribute to the current and future missions of the USPHS. The CPO's have been asked to assimilate the issues discussed by each category into one central document by March 8, 1999.

CAPT Dunn thanked the officers on the PAC who had contributed to statement submitted by the scientist category. A lengthy discussion ensued which focused on how best to present the unique capabilities and strengths that scientist officers in particular, and commissioned officers in general, have to offer in carrying out the nation's public health initiatives. No consensus or decision was reached about how best to accomplish this, though all agreed that numerous valid viewpoints exist and that this topic should be frequently raised and present approaches evaluated. CAPT Dunn asked officers on the PAC to continue to provide their input to him concerning this document.

IV. OLD BUSINESS--ONGOING COMMITTEE REPORTS and PROJECT STATUS:

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ISSUES:

1. AWARDS COMMITTEE: (CDR Gonzalez-Willis)

CDR Gonzalez-Willis reported that the PAC has received over ten nominations for Junior and Senior Scientist Officer of the Year and that February 26, 1999 is the deadline.

She proposed that the PAC establish a clear separation between the processing of award nominations and the selection process by the awards committee. The rationale for doing this is to eliminate any potential conflicts of interest which may occur if the person collecting the award nominations is also on the decision committee. CDR Gonzalez-Willis stated that she believed it is important that the identity of the officers on the awards selection committee not be known to the applicants.

Both CDR Lalonde and CAPT Dunn supported this idea and the PAC voted unanimously to establish a separation of officers involved in calling for and collecting award nominations from those officers selecting the award winners.

Thus, the PAC's standing committee on awards will be separate and distinct from the committee involved in reviewing and selecting winners. CAPT Dunn indicated that he has had success in eliciting volunteers from retired officers for the selection process and would continue to utilize this source.

2. MENTORING COMMITTEE: (CDR Brown)

Nothing to report at this time. Waiting for the completion of the report from the Leadership training forum.

3. RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE: (CDR McNeilly)

LT Weber proposed that as part of it's recruitment efforts, the PAC consider developing a CD-ROM describing the PHS commissioned corps, including accomplishments of scientist officers and career opportunities for them in the PHS. Currently, the only recruitment activity being conducted, that the SciPAC is aware of, is visiting a few graduate schools in the DC metropolitan area. Have a portable recruitment package on CD-ROM could conceivably provide a means to reach a much larger pool of potential scientist officers. LCDR Ravenell-Brown, the PAC's former DCP liaison, mentioned that the Sanitarian category has already developed a CD, which may be of potential use. CDR Gonzalez-Willis mentioned that she has direct access to all of the deans of public health schools, to whom such a CD-ROM could be sent. CDR Sheets also mentioned her husband has experience in narration, which could prove to be of use.

CDR Lalonde, encouraged LT Weber to try and obtain a copy of the Sanitarians CD-ROM and evaluate it for usefulness, since a major obstacle to producing something of this nature is access to facilities with multi-media capacities and the time involved in creating a high quality presentation.

LCDR Albright also reminded the SciPAC that the kick-off event for the national campaign to celebrate Public Health Awareness Week is April 5, 1999. Both the COA and SciPAC web sites have information on the kick-off.

4. VISIBILITY COMMITTEE : (CDR Lalonde)

Poster (CAPT Caviness)

CAPT Caviness asked officers to send her action photos. She will also be contacting officers to send her brief biographies on what they do.

Internet (CDR Lalonde)

CDR Lalonde reported that the new SciPAC web is now up and operational. To check out the web page go to: <http://scipac.nimh.nih.gov/scientist/scientist.html>. This is where copies of SciPAC minutes and other information of scientists will be posted on a regular basis.

CDR Lalonde has also created a new login account for officers who interested in helping to maintain the web site or make contributions. Contact CDR Lalonde if you are interested. If you would like to make indirect contributions, send them as

email attachments to CDR Lalonde. The preferred format is portable document format (PDF). All scientist officers are invited to make contributions.

He is also in discussions with DCP to allow him access to current scientist officer contact information for posting on the web site.

The updated Scientist Handbook is still in the process of being installed on the web page and will have chapter by chapter links on the new page.

Once the new SciPAC charter is approved, it will also be made available on the web page.

All scientist officers are strongly encouraged to subscribe the Scientist Category email list server to be kept abreast of recent developments of interests to members of the category. To subscribe to the listserv, officers should do the following:

maillist@hippo.nimh.nih.gov

You subscribe to the listserv by sending an email message to the address above and entering the following text in the body of the message:

subscribe CC-Scientist Firstname Lastname

where Firstname is your first name
and Lastname is your last name

To send mail to the entire Scientist Category,

send mail to :

corpssci@hippo.nimh.nih.gov

Science Fair Judging (CDR Sheets)

CDR Sheets has prepared a draft report for DC-COA documenting the history and participation of commissioned officers in regional science fairs in the DC Metro area for the past three years. One of the goals of the report is to ask ADM Satcher to continue the tradition of having the SG sign the award certificates. Another goal of the report is to encourage other COA branches to become involved as science fair judges in their local communities as a means of raising awareness about the Commissioned Corps. CDR Sheets is waiting to obtain feedback from DC-COA and will bring back their recommendations to the PAC to see where we want to go from here. She also mentioned that she still has a few openings for fair judges for this year's round of science fairs.

CAPT Dunn thanked CDR Sheets for her efforts and encouraged her to keep the PAC informed of the feedback she receives from DC-COA.

5. CHARTER REVISION: (CDR Ohata, CDR Paris)

CAPT Dunn has the final version of the revised charter and is in the process of sending it forward for final approval by the OSG.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SCIPAC STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS ISSUES:

Scientist Session at 1999 Annual COA Meeting (CDR Paris)

CDR Paris handed out the agenda for the upcoming scientist session at the annual COA meeting in June. There will be a full day of 15 minutes presentations by scientists officers. The agenda for the meeting can be obtained on the COA home page at: <http://www.coausphs.org/agenda.html>

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. SciPAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The next meeting of the SciPAC Executive Committee is scheduled for 25 March 1999, at 1230-1530 in 18th floor OSG conference room or by teleconference.
2. SciPAC MEETING: The next meeting of the full SciPAC is scheduled for 22 April 1999, 1230-1530 in Parklawn 18th floor OSG conference room.
3. The SciPAC meetings for the year are as follows:

1998/9

<u>Full SciPAC</u>	<u>Location in Parklawn Building</u>	<u>(Alternate meeting room)</u>
September 24	Chesapeake conf room	
December 3	Potomac conf. room	
February 25	18 th Floor OSG conf. room	(Conference room B)
April 22	18 th Floor OSG conf. room	(Conference room B)
July 22	18 th Floor OSG conf. room	(Chesapeake room.)
September 23	18 th Floor OSG conf. Room	(Conference room B)

SciPAC Executive Committee

(Alternate meeting room)

October 22	Chesapeake room	
January 28	18 th Floor OSG conf. room	(Conference room B)
March 25	18 th Floor OSG conf. room	(Conference room B)
May 27	18 th Floor OSG conf. room	(Conference room B)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A. The SciPAC meeting was adjourned at 1530 hours.

Submitted by:

LT Darin Weber
Recording Secretary
Date_____

CDR Francois Lalonde
Chairperson
Date_____

APPENDIX

CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL, USPHS (February 25, 1999)

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